

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) A rotary knob for operating a motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, comprising:

an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob; and

a controllable light source adapted to display arbitrarily changeable information items on the display layer.

22. (Previously Presented) The rotary knob according to claim 21, wherein the display layer includes a side facing an operator and a side facing away from the operator, the side facing away from the operator illuminatable by the controllable light source.

23. (Previously Presented) The rotary knob according to claim 21, wherein the controllable light source is arranged in back of the display layer with respect from a side of the display layer facing an operator.

24. (Previously Presented) A rotary knob for operating a motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, comprising:

an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob; and

a controllable light source adapted to display changeable information items on the display layer;

wherein the controllable light source includes a laser.

25. (Previously Presented) A rotary knob for operating a motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, comprising:

an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob; and

a controllable light source adapted to display changeable information items on the display layer;

wherein the controllable light source is adapted to produce a movable light beam.

26. (Previously Presented) The rotary knob according to claim 21, further comprising a scattering light lens arranged between the controllable light source and the display layer.

27. (Previously Presented) A rotary knob for operating a motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, comprising:

an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob;

a controllable light source adapted to display changeable information items on the display layer; and

a reflecting mirror adapted to deflect a light beam and arranged between the controllable light source and the display layer.

28. (Previously Presented) The rotary knob according to claim 27, wherein the deflecting mirror is curved.

29. (Previously Presented) A rotary knob for operating a motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, comprising:

an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob;

a controllable light source adapted to display changeable information items on the display layer; and

a prism adapted to deflect a light beam and arranged between the controllable light source and the display layer.

30. (Previously Presented) The rotary knob according to claim 29, wherein the prism includes a curved reflecting surface.

31. (Currently Amended) An operator device for operating a motor vehicle, comprising:

at least two rotary knobs adapted to operate the motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, the rotary knobs including:

an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob; and

a controllable light source adapted to display arbitrarily changeable information items on the display layer.

32. (Previously Presented) The operator device according to claim 31, wherein each rotary knob is operable in a functionally independent manner.

33. (Previously Presented) The operator device according to claim 31, wherein the display layers of the rotary knobs are adapted to simultaneously display different information items.

34. (Currently Amended) An ~~The operator device according to claim 31, for operating a motor vehicle, comprising:~~

at least two rotary knobs adapted to operate the motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, the rotary knobs including:

an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob; and

a controllable light source adapted to display changeable information items on the display layer;

wherein the rotary knobs include a common light source adapted to display information on the display layers.

35. (Currently Amended) A multifunction operating device for a motor vehicle, comprising:

a display; and

at least one of:

(a) a rotary knob adapted to operate the motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, the rotary knob including an at least partially

transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob and a controllable light source adapted to display arbitrarily changeable information items on the display layer; and

(b) an operator device including at least two rotary ~~at least two rotary~~ knobs adapted to operate the motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, the rotary knobs including an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob and a controllable light source adapted to display arbitrarily changeable information items on the display layer;

the at least one of (a) the rotary knob and (b) the operator device adapted to at least one of (a) preselect and (b) select menu items displayable on the display.

36. (Previously Presented) The multifunction device according to claim 35, wherein menu items displayable on the display are simultaneously displayable on the display layer.

37. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel for a motor vehicle, comprising: at least one of:

(a) a rotary knob adapted to operate the motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, the rotary knob including an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob and a controllable light source adapted to display arbitrarily changeable information items on the display layer; and

(b) an operator device including at least two rotary ~~at least two rotary~~ knobs adapted to operate the motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, the rotary knobs including an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob and a controllable light source adapted to display arbitrarily changeable information items on the display layer.

38. (Currently Amended) The steering wheel according to claim [[17]] 37, wherein at least one rotary knob is arranged less than 4 cm away from an edge of the steering wheel.

39. (Currently Amended) The steering wheel according to claim [[17]] 37, wherein at least one rotary knob is arranged less than 3 cm away from an edge of the steering wheel.

40. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle, comprising:
at least one of:

(a) a rotary knob adapted to operate the motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, the rotary knob including an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob and a controllable light source adapted to display arbitrarily changeable information items on the display layer;

(b) an operator device including at least two rotary ~~at least two rotary~~ knobs adapted to operate the motor vehicle by rotation of the rotary knob, the rotary knobs including an at least partially transparent display layer rotatable with and in response to an angular movement of the rotary knob and a controllable light source adapted to display arbitrarily changeable information items on the display layer; and

(c) a steering wheel including one of (a) the rotary knob and (b) the operator device.